

Joseph H. Langost
NOTES

HSCA Interview of [Harold J.
[Swenson], by Alan Haraway
& Charles Berts at HSCA
offices on 8/21/78, 10:15
A.M.

letter ✓

Physical photo White hair - glasses

[10 Georgetown N.
Greenwich, Conn.]

[Director of Security for
Greenboro Farms (?)]

N.Y.

was a VP for [Intertel]

1/5-1/55 joined CIA
till 8/68.

1963 - two roles.

special assistant to C/SAS
anythen C/SAS/CI.

worked with Harvey
& D.F.

Central Intelligence Agency
has no Objection to Release
Date: AS SANITIZED
2003

PCR?

subsequent. Senior rep
for Latin affairs in
Western Europe -
trouble shooter
also in Mid-East

primary concern was CII:
did work in liaison
@ friendly services.

function SAS: meaning
except in context of name
CI - heading it for
a microcosm of agency
liaison @ FBI.

knew Harvey in FBI +
had common understand
@ H. re: his (S's) role.

protect against foreign
penetration, esp Cuba.
mount ops to penetrate
Cuba CUB.

SAS can be SA.

Ep 12A.

CUBA?

MCA EAY?

got true names, psydes
contacts + bio on CUIS
officers - computer
storage + retrieval.
Travel info - also
computerized.
looked for disenchantment

first in-depth knowledge
of CUIS functions from
[AMNIP.]
while still exploiting
info got AMMUG.

5 brought him back to US
Canadians hesitant.
A/I brought operational
files - tremendously
valuable in debriefing.
[NIP +] MUG best sources I
tried to exploit their
info on other CUIS
officers

[NIP -] late 62 or 63.

before to defectors CIA
info meager / sketchy

unreliable — "They were
goldmines!"

CUIS (G-2) changing
over 62 + 63.

by 64 was D&I — in
interim great deal
of training and progress

[NIP — Inception
MUG — up to date]

also received info from
all sources — other
stations, etc.

2 Computer systems —
separate from other
computer indexing
doesn't remember
specific names —
still in existence when
he left —
coordinated but a part

[CIS] wouldn't have
access 'cept through [5.]

Phillips

minimal contact @
 CTS - "pretty much independent"

Mexi reports extracted
 & included.

~~silvia~~ [S] would go to Mexi for
 certain CI things.

became C/SA/CI can't
 remember exact dates -
 gradual movement after
 2 tours overseas -
 Harvey's special assist
 to C/CI.

~~travel @ him~~ close friendship @ Harvey
 back to FBI days but
 compartmentized.

[S] was in Marines & spoke
 Spanish.

27 at time of missile unofficial
 CI. Almost simul @ [D.F.] Arrival
 Official.

MUG valuable coz desk off.
 respon. for Mexi &
 Central Am.

had ops files @ true names, alias, local country agents - info so detailed - commo + everything.
 [I was able to go to various countries to work @ this info.

ass'n attempts by CVIS can't recall any. thinks it unlikely - met a number of them - recruitment + elicitation mediocre officers. in terms of professionalism most didn't have the stomach.
 never found any indication except in encouraging revolutionary actions.

as organization? capable?
 "iffy"
 conceivable but doubtful
 too baky + careless
 + ~ that zealous.

mediocre but improving rapidly.

recruitment attempts.
 [MEXI?] 60-63?
 he did / ~ successful
 but partially - individuals
 well known to [NIP-]
 got him to hotel room -
 at time Castro's sister
 defected. bailed him out -
 thought meeting C's
 sister - guy was
 wavering - considered
 working for CIA but
 changed mind. - C's sister
 defected at time of meeting
 - problems - and he
 decided ~ to do it.
 can't remember name
 wasn't [Riz]

TALL
 SKINNY guy
 light brown
 complexion
 dissatisfied
 @ treatment

Chief of
 CUIS IN
 EMBASSY.
 At that time

position
 IN
 EMBASSY?

[RIZ]

no successful recruitments
 in Mexi that he recalls.

[Belgium] QJ/WIN - ZRRIFLE -
 means nothing to him

8

MUG -

first indication that
"DGI" even existed.

MUG - was aware of people
in all C.A. + Mexi. DGI
activities.

bona fides firmly establish
he was completely dissatisfied

files - none that dealt
w/ LHO or JFK assassin.

11/22/63 - immediately caused
search of files w/ no
response.

MUG - was reliable + held
confidence of CIA.

[5 got him coz he was most
knowledgeable of CUI -
went to Can. sebb to
✓ out bonafides.

once brought A/1 back
various people delegated

to babysit & etc.
 Hidalgo, [Flores,] [Vivian Berry,]
 Joe Piccalo.

H was a case officer -
 "did whatever I told him
 to." great Spanish - Cuban
 dialect - enthusiastic
 ungratifying - great
 babysitter - lots of
 physical defects

no recall of ap use in
 Mexi - but he did have
 a host of info - not
 close enough to people in
 Mexi as [NIP] was.
 [Miguel Roche]

[NIP] very effective -
 [star basketball player]

no recollection of
 penetrations at Culbemb
 but did have observa-
 tion posts.

sez Bishop sketch could be a
 lot of people

AS
#1st

should have known of
penetrations but doesn't
mean he would have
- penetrations should
have had a CI check

CGTHN
gicops

no knowledge of Cuban
penetration of us.
[Will Kirby - Retired
Piccolo

[Austin Horn] - deceased
could have had knowledge
but would have called
to his attention.

doesn't think Whitten]
had to do @ Mex;

~~back~~ adding 2 and 2.

may have often gotten
more than 4"

jealous & ambitious

jump & overestimate value
- completely objective
but very bright.
tendency to subjective
coloring.



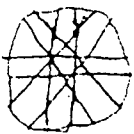
11

aware of W. respon.
- can not recall.
did not assist

Phillips +
prep. of.

Documents

CIA # 3709 shown.



[5]urate cable - initial
assessment.
"speaks for itself"

3710

para. E.

commercial attache - doesn't
recall who it was now.
others - mentioned? can't
at time.

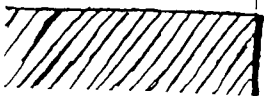
man he talked to was,
he thinks, the commercial
attache.

3711

para. H

he is Langosh (p.l.)

Canadian debriefing approx.
10 days.



tried to give HQ idea of how valuable he was so get State to pressure to give him to us.

notes in head - did not tape the debriefings must have been [RCMA] ²⁹

[5. I was circumspect coz suspected [Canadians] of taping.

most debriefings in U.S. - taped but took notes - wrote up detailed report for indexing + distribution. Meetings for interest desks^{W4} - asked for questions

reports would have been kept in SAS/CI + dissem. to interest desks on need to know basis.

has never heard of debriefing report #40.

"SI" - obvious thing was Special intelligence/DO

but honestly doesn't know what it would stand for.

DD required a special clearance staff & sources very sensitive. ... did - want to compromise by taking actions that would reveal that we had broken code.]

Cannot remember anything done on LHO case.

if report 40 originated outside of DD would - have included their material

retention would have meant they were working on it.

CIA

3670 shown

5] "one I obviously prepared but I don't remember it" probably was a debriefing report.

D.D. wouldn't have retained may have tried [to break a code]

1/BR

WH/PO/A - doesn't know what that would have been.

Sturgis - no recollection of MUG mention

reviewed JMWAVE personnel for penetrations by CUIS or as contacts into Cuba.

assumes Hunt knew Sturgis from Bay of Pigs.

3691 shown.

[5] thinks probably did write para 1 -

cannot recall what kinds contacts but would have been what MUG told him.

Laurie - no recollection. name came up coz MUG told him that.

follow-up?

[5] had no connections @ WC but would have sent memo to CIs



talks about questioning tech.
to avoid letting interviewee
know what point was
significant & spurious name
& Mongolian ponies as
example.

No knowing deception on
MUG's part.

had there been more detail
would have been in memo

no knowledge of LC/CIA
relationship

3695 shown

no recollection
accurate quote
normal O.P.

doesn't remember seeing
or talking.

how reconcile? op+ w.c.?

? ? Angleton ran some ops
out of vest pocket

[5.] wanted opportunity to exploit MUG info / contacts + milk him dry. ^{from MUG} terrorist transit example Foreign minister's meeting + visits to chiefs of state.

no knowledge that MUG ever talked to W.C.

3699 shown.

[5.] wrote it.

don't recall specifics but would be way handled.

L.C. - still no recall of particulars — she would have been of interest in machine run - contacts etc [5.] would have written a memo for 201.

no recall of crypt for machine runs.

contacted? possible but no specific memory

CALDERON
RODRIGUEZ
VEGA.



female assets - Cuban - Mexi
no particular recall.

3703 shown.

5 did write
second hand info.
never determine Americans I.D.
did - know L.C. as CIA agent
visa section accurate.
doesn't think R. ever
spoke to A/I but doesn't
know.

polygraph - recollection
is that he was clean all the
way

3882 shown.



L.C. -

if he had dealt w/ WC he would
have given him earlier memo.

doesn't know Rocca that well

CIA 1950-54 shown.



three pieces of info signi-
 ify he had been in Mexi-
 would have explored
 in greater detail. but
 this part of problem
 is that everything
 compartmentized.

thinks W.S. would have
 done more - would have
 tried to interrogate the
 3 people - polygraph -
 enticement.

at time would have been
 sig. enough to have called
 for a more stringent inves-
 but at that time Mexi
 not strong on CI

suggests exploring @ Phillips

doesn't recall seeing any of
 the transcripts - racks it up to
 overzealous compartmentation.

[5] I would have thought that Scott would have jumped on this.

knows of no instance of recruitment
@ clearance.

3675

~~2~~

[Nico Garcia] is guy pitched
@ [NIP] help (earlier)

doesn't remember much about
Ruiz.

Viciana + crypt remembers
rings no bells.

3717

doesn't remember seeing
T.P. remembers name vaguely
as dedicated comrade
no knowledge of attempted
recruitment or of membership
in DGI.

3715.

would have done jointly
 @ Bureau - talked to Papich
 excellent cooperation.

D.E.S. - was known Domestic
 Operations Division

OO innocuous & open - later
 became DCD.

DDD engaged in clandestine
 exploitation in U.S. - not
 good rapport & cooperation
 @ FBI.

Info on sister should be
 available from DDD or JMWAVE

never heard of black tape

[AMROD -] no bells.

3714 - paragraph 2. - still no
 bells.

36666

Senate didn't have copy.
FBI called him.

~~Q~~ AMLASH insecure.
opposed ass'n on practical
grounds.

[ESPINOZA?
ACCOMPANIED?]

group was untrustworthy
& leaky.

risks unacceptably high.

C. knew
group plotting ass'n in 62
& good possibility that
AMLASH was turned.

doesn't know how much
C knew - suspects C suspected
agency complicity. "high
probability" coz nature of
group & leaks.

never knew as fact that
any in group were C agents.

[Madrid] security problem.
meeting places known.
as far back as '63

"did not think security, general
was very good."

HUNT?

probability that C knew of
agency backing AMLASH
very high in light of all
factors.

9/

people at SAS certainly
knew AMLASH was an
ass'n plot.

??

7

CI, EO, JMWAVE certainly
aware. despite compartmentation
at least on basis of gossip.

discussed @ D.F. - knew
how he felt - @ Helms -
he went through channels.
It was up to [D.F.] to bring
it up @ Helms.

didn't know of Hunt's trip to
Spain.

23

CI/SIC - no bells.

[Show] I would probably have been CI person in MEXI

* Phillips should be most knowledgeable about these things due to delegation from Scott
end 2:40 p.m.

A/1

Piccolo - good intel instincts
[Vivian Barri (Petrovsky)] adm asset, good
at research -
w/ A/1 had [Viviane]
sit in + then look
for collateral info to
substantiate + refute
A/1 knowledge -

A/1 provided accurate + reliable -
didn't build hypothesis - gave
hard information -
above-average intel - good
memory - very shrewd -

assumed in Florida -
last contact in 1965 -

under direction - did operations for CIA
[A.S] took A/1 to El Salvador -
to try + arrange meetings w/
CIVIS people

Mx C, Cuban diversion part -
significant photos would have
gone to Mexican desk -
wouldn't have sent photos if not
Hiroshima photos to HQ unless knew significance
of photos

[H.S.] assumes CIA + FBI had
agreement to identify un'id American
who had contact w/ Bloc Country
embassies

never heard of [TUMBLEWEED]

knew WIN SCOTT quite well

→ { never saw LHO photos in front of Cuban
Embassy - doesn't know where found

doesn't know

[~~Don Neeson~~⁰³]

does know [Charlotte Bustin] quite

well - never heard that she

had found photos of LHO - good

memory - very astute, meticulous

{ wouldn't have made mistake

{ in descripts in dissim cable -

[H.S.] resp. for determining if
Anti-Castro groups had been
penetrated by CUIS - including in
Miami -

doesn't specifically recall DRIT
does remember ALPHA-66

✓

Manolo Ray's group - any penetration
recalls that was run loosely - could
have been better screened

Dave Phillips - PPOps - not well rounded
as far as CI work - too trusting -
inexperienced

3670 - doesn't recall 

3713 - A/I never said anything about
Sturgis -

no one went w/ H.S. [when went
to see [Espinoza] but FBI/
agent went - head of Cuban Operat
Frank LNU -

never heard of [Espinoza] before that - <sup>did send search
after spoke w/ him</sup>

never " [Mike Mc Clare]]

Had little to do w/ Angleton
doesn't know what operations he ran

J. A & W in Scott knew each other well

doesn't know if Dave Phillips ever
initiated propaganda - post JFK assass.
never heard of CI/515

20/3659 Ruiz - refresh recollection

- ✓ 21/3670 - ① ~~why was it~~
Did you write
② Was it coded [did you]
[break it]
③ what is the reference
-

✓ Oswald Report No. 40
What is SI

{ Black Tape 201 -

{ What is [AMROD-] see 3714 #3
what about Proenza
#

22/3666 - 1) who was [Espinoza] ^{connection to Edward}
when was ^{the} ~~memo~~ written & what were his
allegations
2) #2 a "who was Totu"

re-read
see 410
3669
C [AUSUFTH]

See 3667 3 A (2) - what
does this
mean

3668 - top # - you considered
it an assas plot -
by U.S. gov't
C, A

[Swenson] Interview

1. Release Letter
2. Mandate + Purpose
3. name, address, age, occupation
4. CIA position in 1963
5. other CIA positions until retirement ^{anytime in Mex -}
6. what is WH/SAS/CI - its function - your function

7) Is WH/SA/CI same as WH/SAS/CI



any successful recruitments

7. How much was known ^{in 1963-1964} about CUIS by CIA - how was info gained

a) any knowledge of pol. assass. carried out by CUIS

b) what was DBI - how was it organized _{Any DBI - CIA agents}

8. ~~Family~~ Familiarity w/ crypt Ammug-1

a) who was he

b) when did he defect

c) w/ what into

d) how significant

e) where is he now

f) who handled him + in what order

why did you handle him

g) what was your responsibility vis a vis AMMUG-1 - for how long

h) what was his operational use

- h) 1) - Was he used to attempt penetration of DSI
- 2) did he succeed - against whom
- 3) did CIA have penetration agents at Mxlysta at time LHO visited - who - what were crypts + names
- i) where is A/I now

9. ~~XXXXXX~~ Did WH/SAS have a "domestic exploitation section" - what purpose

DOCS ¹⁰

[OTTA 1602
3709]

Is this accurate

Did you ever meet/see LCC staff
Concerning A/I

- ② 3710 H E - Accurate
- a) who was comm'l attacks
- b) any other DSI
- ③ 3711 H E - what does did A/I bring out - did any pertain to LHO
- ④ 3711 H H - indicates LANGOSCH - N.W.S that you
- b) how long did you debrief (A/I in OTTA
- c) where + w/ whom
- d) how did you record info - how was it seen to CIA HQ
- 3712 ⑤ see 3713 H S - did A/I know F. Sturgis
- a) Did Sturgis work for you

b) 3713 - # 7 - who was [Amnrip/1-]
 what kind of info did he provide
 did [Amnrip] know Sturgis - was
[Amnrip] Sturgis

5 May memo

- ① 3691 - Did you write this
- ② How many times did LHO visit embassy
- ③ Did you see the Mx Cy photo surveillance ^{photos} of LHO - when
- ④ Who was Luisa Calderon - what is her significance
- ⑤ Did A/1 ever indicate that LHO had actual contact w/ DGI
- ⑥ Do you believe in light of memo that LHO had contact w/ DGI in Mx Cy

~~Amnrip/1- who asked you to ask about her~~

11 May 64

3695 - ~~did you write this~~ Did you ever see this memo -

- ① Is this memo accurate
- 3696 ② to ^{bottom of 3695} p of page - how was overall exploitation of A/1 + responsibilities to WC satisfied
- ③

7 May 64

- 13 ① Did you write this
- 3699 ② why ^{Amnrip} the interest in Luisa Calderon
- ③ Was she CIA agent
- 3700 ④ was access obtained to referenced people

⑤ Do you know what was told about A/I and knowledge of LHO

5 May 64

14
3703

① any special reason for not giving report in Q+A form

② was this verbatim from a tape recording - what would happen to tape recordings

3704 ③ top - Did Vega see LHO

④ Is it accurate vis a vis granting of visas - see p 3707

⑤ Rogelio Rodriguez - what were his DBI responsibilities (sabotage or assass?)

⑥ 3705 - was it ever determined if Luisa was contacted by referenced American - who is the American

⑦ Silvia Dwan - was she DBI - was she CIA - Did CIA contact her

⑧ 3706 - Did Rocca speak to A/I

⑨ LCFIUTTER - ~~was~~ Was A/I asked about LHO - what was the response

14 June 64

15
3682

- ① Have you ever seen this

3684 - ever see this - is it accurate

② Do you know why Willer didn't

3687 ③ why ^{see memo of 7 & 8 May} was so little info on Luisa given

Did anyone at CIA ever indicate to you that Luisa had significance

④ Why not told about ~~rumor~~
of CIA Assoc

16/3679 ① Did you write this
② What does 2R by the
names mean
how was it filed
③

17/3675 Ruiz ① Did you know
he was Veciana's
cousin -
② Was he DGI -
③ Discover any connections
ever asked to
investigate

CALDERON - remember to ask
7/1950-1954 if saw
conversat.

18/3717 ~~3717~~ ① ever seen it
② who is Carlos Blanco
✓ ③ Teresa Proenza - who is
she - ~~what~~ was she CIA
agent Did you know Dave Phillips
Did he run Dirty Tricks on her
3719 ④ Did you get a report on
her -

19/3715 - Did you know [H/9 -]
① what about sister
② what is dom. expl. p
③ what sister contacted